

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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HISPANIC COMMUNICATION
WORKSHOP DRAWS 56

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. -- An ecumenical workshop for clerical and lay leaders concerned with Hispanic ministries drew 56 participants here, 11 of them Episcopalians.

The Ecumenical Communication Skills Workshop for Hispanic Concerns was held here April 22-24 at Casa San José, Oblate College of the Southwest, one of the sponsors of the event. Other sponsors were the Episcopal Church's Office of Communication, Centro de Comunicación Oblato, United Methodist Office of Communication Education, and United Methodist Communication of Texas and New Mexico.

The workshop provided skills in print and electronic media to enhance communication within the local congregation and with the community at large.

Simultaneous translations of the proceedings were provided according to the language of the leader, although much of it was "ambilingual," switching from English to Spanish and vice versa, according to the leader's choice.

The program of the workshop covered many areas: citizens' rights under the Communication Act of 1934; Television Awareness Training; cable and small format video; radio production; television production; use of slide programs for prayer services; how to do newsletters and church bulletins; incorporation of graphics; how to work with local newspaper people and what a newspaper can do for the church. All of the workshops were conducted within a theological context which was examined at various points in the sessions by an interdenominational theology panel with small group discussion and analysis.

Many participants said that, as far as they know, this was the first time a workshop of this type had been held for persons engaged in Hispanic ministries. Some expressed the hope that similar workshops might be scheduled in the future.

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Episcopal Church leaders were the Rev. Clifford Waller of San Antonio, who served on the theology panel, and Sonia Francis, Radio/TV Officer at the Episcopal Church Center, who served on the workshop staff.

The Episcopal participants came from seven dioceses: Louisiana, New York, Oregon, Rio Grande, Rochester, Southeast Florida and West Texas.

Participants came from the following churches: Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, United Methodist, United Church of Christ, Disciples, and Mennonite. Seventeen communication specialists from all over the United States served as staff and leaders.

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